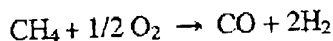


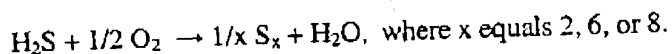
15. (Amended) The system according to claim 8 comprising at least one tailgas processing unit downstream of said sulfur condenser.

17. (Amended) The system according to claim 8 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of: platinum, rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, iron, cobalt, rhenium, rubidium, Pd-La₂O₃, Pt/ZrO₂, Pt/Al₂O₃ and combinations thereof.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said catalyst is active for catalyzing the reactions



and



REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Final Office Action mailed July 31, 2002. In that Office Action, the Examiner (1) rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; (2) rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on *De Jong et al.*; and (3) rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *De Jong et al.* and *Dubois et al.*, *De Jong et al.* and *Heck et al.*, *De Jong et al.* and *Goetsch et al.*, *De Jong et al.* and *Kiliany et al.*, and *De Jong et al.* and *Heisel et al.*

Status of Claims

Claims 14 and 24 have been canceled.

Claims 8, 15, 17, and 23 have been amended. A marked up version of the amended claims, showing the changes by underlining of the added text and striking out the deleted text, is appended hereto.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner states that disclosing reactions that take place have "no structural limitation." In reply, claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 17, which includes as a structural limitation that the catalyst comprises platinum, rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, iron, cobalt, rhenium, rubidium, Pd-La₂O₃, Pt/ZrO₂, Pt/Al₂O₃, or some combination of those.